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UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE UNDER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE Washington, D.C. 20231

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JUL 3 : 2001

Office of the Director Group 3600

DECISION ON PETITION TO WITHDRAW THE HOLDING OF ABANDONMENT

Striker Striker & Stenby 103 East Neck Road Huntington, NY 11743

In re Application of Klaus-Juergen Westermann, et al. Application No. 09/319,842

Filed: August 9, 1999

For: SUPPORT FOR THE JOINT HINGE

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This is a decision on applicant's petition to withdraw the holding of abandonment, filed in the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), on April 23, 2001 and supplemented by facsimile on June 21, 2001.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

A review of the file record indicates that the application was held abandoned for failure to timely respond to the Office action dated August 28, 2000.

Applicant's petition includes a copy of a response and request for a two-month extension of time, bearing a Certificate of Mailing date of January 29, 2001. A statement by Michael Striker was received within the petition, which attests to the personal knowledge of mailing the response and request for extension of time on the date indicated on the Certificate of Mailing. It is further noted that applicant's extension of time fee was charged to Deposit Account 19-4675 (instead of 14-4675 as indicated in the petition) and was credited to the application. This is acceptable evidence of a timely response.

Since a timely response to the Office action was filed, the holding of abandonment is withdrawn and the application is restored to pending status. The application is being forwarded to the Supervisory Legal Instruments Examiner for entry of the Amendment filed with the petition, and then to the Primary Examiner for prompt action on the merits of the application.

Telephone inquiries relative to this decision should be directed to Special Programs Examiner Steven Meyers at (703) 308-3868.

Al Lawrence Smith, Director

Patent Technology Center 3600 (703) 308-1020

Facsimile No.: (703) 306-4597

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